## METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LOGICALLY EXPANDING THE LENGTH OF A SEARCH KEY

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A lookup table provides a longest prefix match for a search key longer than a lookup table's mapper key. The lookup table performs a multi-level search in one or more mappers for the result value based on a portion of the search key provided as the mapper key. The lookup table is searched in multiple passes with successive portions of the search key until the result value is found.